

Scoring Criteria

- A. **Project Summary** - Provide a one-page project summary of the proposed project. This summary should describe the scope of the project and justify the need and demand for the project. Applicant should address how the proposed project meets the “intent” of the Recreation Trails Program eligibility criteria as described in the application. Any special issues or significant features of the project should be included. Try to “sell” your project in this one-page summary. (50 points possible)
- B. **Project Selection Criteria** - Explain on the following pages how the project meets the following project selection criteria. If criterion does not apply, indicate N/A (Not Applicable). (100 total points possible)
- Partnerships** – Describe the degree to which the trail project involves interagency cooperation and public/private partnering between trail user organizations and public agencies. (0-20 points)
- Connections** – Describe the degree to which project provides linkages to other trails, greenways, scenic corridors, parks or recreation areas. (0-20 points)
- Planning Process** – Describe the planning process for the project. Include documentation of public involvement and support for the proposed project. (0-15 points)
- Volunteerism** – Provide information about volunteer services and donated materials that will be used to accomplish this project. Include information about youth conservation corps, AmeriCorps or other volunteer service organization involvement. (0-15 points)
- Trail Sharing** – Describe how the trail project can accommodate a variety of motorized and/or non-motorized recreation activities (hiking, equestrian, motorcycle, fitness, interpretive, paddlesport, multi-use, ATV, 4-wheel drive, mountain bicycling, accessible trails). (0-10 points)
- Environmental Mitigation** – Describe how the project provides for the design, construction, location or redesign, reconstruction, or relocation of the trail or trailhead in order to mitigate and minimize the impact to the natural environment making for a sustainable project. (0-10 points)
- Maintenance Commitment** – Describe the degree of commitment (such as on-going funding or trail adoption) to continue operation and maintenance after project is complete. (0-10 points)
- C. **Bonus Points** – Priority will be given to recreation trail projects and user groups that meet needs that are not being otherwise met within a 25-mile radius. Emphasis is placed on trail projects that provide for motorized trail use, mountain bike use, equestrian trail use, water trail use and backcountry hiking use (or any combination of these). (50 points possible)

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Project Summary: Describe the scope, need and demand of the proposed project. Applicant should address how the proposed project meets the “intent” of the Recreation Trails Program eligibility criteria as described in the application. Any special issues or significant features of the project should be included. Try to “sell” your project. Summary narrative should be limited to one-page. **(50 points possible)**

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Explain in detail how the project meets the following project selection criteria. Be as specific as possible and avoid generalities. Provide such supporting documentation as you feel necessary to address each criterion. If a particular criterion does not apply to your project, type “Not Applicable” or (N/A) in the space provided for your response and proceed to the next item. Please limit narrative response to the space provided.

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3. **Planning Process** - Describe the planning process for the project. Include documentation of public awareness, involvement and support for the proposed project (such as newspaper articles or public meetings). **(15 points possible)**

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5. **Trail Sharing** - Describe how the trail project can accommodate a variety of motorized and/or non-motorized recreation activities (hiking, equestrian, motorcycle, fitness, interpretive, paddlesport, multi-use, ATV, mountain bicycling, accessible trails, etc.). **(10 points possible)**

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7. **Maintenance Commitment** - Describe the degree of commitment (such as on-going funding or trail adoption programs) to continue operation and maintenance after project is complete. **(10 points possible)**

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8. Bonus Points - Bonus points will be considered for projects that are identified as having the highest demand through public input, as identified in the current State Recreation Plan, and as identified in the Tennessee Greenways and Trails Plan. Bonus points will also be considered for projects that provide recreation trail opportunities to user groups that currently do not exist within a 25-mile radius. Applicants are encouraged to consider alternative recreation trail projects such as mountain biking trails, motorized trails, equestrian trails, water trails and backcountry hiking trails (or any combination of these). Bonus points narrative should be limited to this one-page. **(50 points possible)**

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9. Acquisition Bonus points-points will be awarded for land acquisition with significant recreation value. **(10 points possible)**.